

Appl. No.: 10/660,004
Amdt. dated 02/22/2005
Reply to Official Action of November 22, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present invention, as evidenced by the first Official Action. The first Official Action rejects Claims 1-16 and 18-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,035,203 to Hanson; and rejects Claim 17 as being unpatentable over the Hanson patent, in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0060215 to Graham. In response, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 19 to more clearly define the claimed invention, and to correct inadvertent typographical errors. Applicants have also added new Claim 25 to recite a further patentable feature of the present invention. More particularly, Applicants have added new Claim 25 to recite that at least one defined connection is a short-range connection (e.g., RFID, Bluetooth, etc.) of the terminal.

With respect to independent Claims 1 and 19, Applicants have amended such claims to recite monitoring for establishment of a connection by the terminal. In this regard, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to independent Claims 1 and 19 merely make explicit that which was already implicitly recited by the respective claims, i.e., monitoring the terminal for establishment of a connection. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to Claims 1 and 19 constitute non-narrowing amendments.

As explained below, Applicants have not amended independent Claims 7 or 13, and accordingly traverse the rejections of these claims, and by dependency Claims 8-12 and 14-18 as being anticipated by or unpatentable over the Hanson patent and/or Graham publication. Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention of amended independent Claims 1 and 19, original independent Claims 7 and 13, and by dependency Claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-18 and 20-25, is patentably distinct from the Hanson and Graham patents, taken individually or in combination. In light of the amended independent Claims 1 and 19, the added Claim 25 and the remarks presented herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

The Hanson patent provides a system and method for paging a mobile telephone unit (MTU) that conserves paging resources. As disclosed, when a cellular system desires to terminate a call at a MTU, the cellular system must know the cell within which a MTU is located (i.e., location of the MTU) in order to communicate with the MTU via a base station located in

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the same cell. Conventionally, an MTU is configured to perform a periodic autonomous registration to permit the cellular system to locate the cell including the MTU. Thus, the cellular system can locate the zone (i.e., collection of cells) most likely including the MTU based upon the cell including the MTU at the last instance of autonomous registration of the MTU. The cellular system then attempts to communicate with the MTU via the base stations of the cells within the respective zone. Thus, to further reduce the paging resources of the cellular system, the Hanson patent provides for recording the cell including the MTU not only during periodic autonomous registration of the MTU, but also at the time of disconnect of a call terminated at the MTU.

The claimed invention of amended independent Claim 1 provides a method of obtaining a terminal location. As recited, the method includes defining at least one connection of the terminal. The terminal is monitored for establishment of a defined connection where, as amended, the defined connection is established by the terminal. The terminal is also monitored for termination of the defined connection after the defined connection is established. Termination of the defined connection, then, triggers obtaining a location of the terminal.

In contrast to the claimed invention of amended independent Claim 1, the Hanson patent does not teach or suggest monitoring a terminal for a connection established by the terminal, and accordingly monitoring the terminal for termination of the established connection, the termination triggering obtaining the location of the terminal. In this regard, the Hanson patent provides a system and method for locating a terminal (i.e., MTU) within a cell of a cellular network such that the cellular network can terminate or otherwise establish a call at the terminal, including directing a page to the terminal via a base station of the respective cell. The Hanson patent also discloses that the terminal location can be recorded during a periodic registration, as well as at disconnect of the established call. However, the Hanson patent does not teach or suggest recording the location of the terminal upon disconnecting or otherwise terminating a connection established by the terminal, as does the claimed invention. In fact, the Hanson patent explicitly teaches away from recording the location of the terminal with respect to calls established by the terminal for the purpose advanced by the Hanson patent, i.e., locating the terminal for directing pages. More particularly, as the act of establishing a call by the terminal

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locates the terminal in the cell including the base station with which the terminal establishes communication, the location of the terminal need not be recorded upon disconnect of such network terminated, or terminal originated, calls since the location is already known from establishment of the call. See Hanson Patent, col. 1, ll. 25-27.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the claimed invention of amended independent Claim 1 is patentably distinct from the system and method of the Hanson patent. Likewise, as the Graham publication does not teach or suggest triggering obtaining the location of a terminal upon termination of a connection established by the terminal, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention of amended independent Claim 1 is also patentably distinct from the Graham publication, and thus the combination of the Hanson patent and Graham publication. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention of independent Claims 7 and 13, and amended independent Claim 19, recite subject matter similar to that of amended independent Claim 1, and are therefore patentably distinct from the Hanson patent and Graham publication, taken individually or in combination, for at least the reasons given above with respect to amended independent Claim 1. In this regard, independent Claims 7 and 13, recite that a terminal or controller of a terminal establish and thereafter terminate a connection, where obtaining the location of the terminal is triggered by terminating the connection.

As dependent Claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-18 and 20-25 each depend, directly or indirectly, from respective ones of independent Claims 1, 7, 13 and 19, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-18 and 20-25 are patentably distinct from the Hanson patent and Graham publication, taken individually or in combination, for at least the reasons given above with respect to amended independent Claim 1, and accordingly independent Claims 7, 13 and 19. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that, for at least the reasons given above, the rejections of Claims 1-24 as being anticipated by or unpatentable over the Hanson patent and/or Graham publication is overcome.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the amended claims, the new claim, and the remarks presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. As such, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested. In order to expedite the examination of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in order to resolve any remaining issues.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,




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Sarah B. Simmons

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